

GILA NATIONAL FOREST



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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McKnight Prescribed Fire Postponed Until Next Week

(Silver City, NM – February 21, 2006) This week's weather forecasts have caused a delay for ignitions on the McKnight Prescribed Fire project in the Mimbres Valley. "This week's forecast is calling for winds out of the northwest, while the prescription states that the winds must be from the south—this change in wind patterns would result in smoke impacts on the community," said Charlie Elliott, District Fire Management Officer, "Right now, we will look at postponing the project until next week and we will continue to monitor the weather conditions very closely and frequently to ensure that we are in compliance with the prescription outlined in the burn plan---before we begin to ignite," Elliott added.

The Wilderness Ranger District will be hosting a public meeting on Monday, February 27, at 5:30 pm, at the Roundup Lodge in the Mimbres Valley. The Roundup Lodge is located near the San Lorenzo Elementary School. District Representatives will be available to discuss upcoming District projects, including the McKnight Prescribed Fire. For more information about the open house or the District's planned projects, please call the Wilderness Ranger District Office at 505-536-2250.

For general information regarding fire activity on the Gila National Forest, please contact the fire information officer at 505-388-8245 or visit the website: www.fs.fed.us/r3/gila.

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